SHILOH PRIMITIVE METHODIST CEMETERY

TORONTO GORE TOWNSHIP

by Beatrice L. Byrne

This small cemetery is on the west side of Highway 50, about a mile north of Coleraine. It is about 135' by 150'. It is fenced, with new stone posts at the front of the cemetery, put in when Highway 50 was widened in 1967. There is a wooden sign on two posts which says "Shiloh Methodist Cemetery, 1851".

There is another Shiloh Methodist Cemetery at Grahamsville, and another at Cedar Mills. While each is in a different township, there are close enough together to generate confusion. When the recordings were done for the Perkins Bull collection, the notes were typed on pieces of paper headed "Shiloh Cemetery". Some of the pages were mixed up.

The half acre on the south-east corner of Lot 17, Concession 12, North Division of Toronto Gore Township, was purchased from George and Sarah Hall, for a halfpenny, Dec. 12, 1850, by the Trustees of the Primitive Methodist Connexion in Canada. They were Robert Hart, Christian Hegler, William Thomas Sr., Henry Nunn, and Benjamin Snell Sr. At least two of them are buried there; Robert Hart and William Thomas.

However, the congregation actually dates back much further, being known as Hall's appointment. The first meetings were

held in Hegler's schoolhouse at Watson's Corner on the town line between Toronto Gore and Vaughan. The church is said to have been built about 1840, ten years before the Hall's signed the deed. It was a frame building, 30 by 40, with an unusual seating arrangement, the pews rising tier by tier until the rearmost were right under the roof.

Facing them was a high pulpit. This church stood until 1902, when it was torn down and its materials used in the construction of a United Methodist church just across the town line. Shiloh was an important church, usually having the highest membership on the Etobicoke circuit, and often the highest collections.

Rev. William Jolley was appointed to Brampton about 1840, and was one of the early preachers at Shiloh. He has been described as a little Yorkshireman whose huge bushy black eyebrows gave him a ferocious appearance, whereas actually he was kindly and gentle and had a delightful sense of humor. When he was superannuated he bought fifty acres on the Bolton Road, and when he died in 1870, was buried in the churchyard.

The earliest burial that is noted on a tombstone is that of Mary, the five-year old eldest daughter of Robert and Jane Hart, who died July 23, 1848.

The last burial was that of Lester Shuttleworth in 1905. It is estimated that about a hundred bodies are buried there, but it was thought that most of the stones were removed to Bolton. It should be kept in mind that when they say stones were removed, they mean exactly that; stones, not remains.

Researchers for the Perkins Bull Collection in 1937-38 noted that there were 13 or 14, or 15 tombstones, "old flat slabs, all upright". Some of them had been repaired with iron braces. They also noted the eight-foot white granite square shaft, in good condition, to the memory of the Hart family, was (and is) obscured by the clump of lilacs in the northwest corner of the lot. In 1973 this cemetery was recorded by Mary Black for the Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, who found 14 tombstones, some no longer legible. There are now only 11, few upright, and some bits and pieces.

The community of which this church and cemetery were a part, was known as Tormore. There is a Tormore in Scotland, one in Ireland, and another in New Zealand.

However, until the post office was established in 1851 in William Graham's general store, and called Tormore, the village had been known as Hartville, or Hart's Corners.

Robert Hart JP, a Yorkshireman, bought the lot from the Hall family, and it is his name that appears on the Tremaine map. In the sixties the Gaffney family of blacksmiths set up their forge and became so notable that the place was often referred to as Gaffney's Corners. But the post office, established in 1851 in William Graham's General Store, was called Tormore.

In its time, from about 1855 to the 1880's, Tormore had a hotel, a general store, known as "Hartville Cheap Store, Wm Smyth & Co", a blacksmith shop, a wagon maker's shop, a plough makers shop, and a veterinarian. There was a Temperance Hall on the other side of the town line.

There was a wayside tavern there by about 1840, kept by Richard Clark. Francis Hayden was the last hotel keeper. He moved to Toronto and built the Hayden House at St. Clair Ave. and the old Weston Road. Thomas Smyth repurchased the hotel and tore it down about 1884. Thomas Shuttleworth gave up the blacksmith trade due to ill health about 1880. The shop was operated by others until about 1895. The Tormore post office was closed in 1915. The old sign of the Hartville Cheap Store was still faintly visible until the building was covered with insul-brick siding in 1963.

All that really remains of the busy village, is the cemetery.

TORONTO GORE TOWNSHIP NO. 4
SHILOH PRIMITIVE METHODIST CEMETERY

1. Henry so Thos & Jane THOMPSON d Dec 3 1854 ae 6 y 11 m 13 d

2. Margaret do Francis & Mary Ann SAUL wd Sept 17 1855 ae 2 y 9 m 14 d

3. William THOMAS d May 15 1876 ae 61 y 1 m 21 d (not found May 18 1981)

4. Rev William JOLLEY wd June 9 1870 ae 80 y. (He was a Methodist preacher at Shiloh Church - Wm. P.B.)

5. John WOODILL d Jan 30 1858 ae 10 y 4 m
Mary Ann d Jan 25 1858 ae 7 y 11 m
Hannah d Jan 22 1858 ae 14 y 9 m
Richard d Jan 31 1858 ae 6 y 4 m
all died of Black Diphtheria.
Children of William and Mary Ann (THOMAS) WOODILL

6. Mary bwo Thos SHUTTLEWORTH d Jan 19 1894 ae 64 y

7. Thomas SHUTTLEWORTH wd June 9 1881 ae 56 y 2 m
Harriett d April 3 1878 ae 3 y 2 m 3 d
Charles d Mar 17 1878 ae 6 m 2 d
CO Thos & Mary SHUTTLEWORTH.

8. Mary Ann d Apr 4 1865 ae 50 y wo Kerby SANDIMAN

9. Mary eldest do Robert & Jane HART wd Jul 23 1848 ae 5 y 4 m 20 d (Thomas HART d Jan 7 1869 ae 33 yrs Wm P.B.)

10. Robt. HART JP ano Allarston, Yorkshire, England wd Apr 4 1870 ae 56.
Jane WATSON bwo Robt. HART, ano Knapton, Yorkshire, England wd June 16 1888 ae 75.

11. William Henry so John & Mary Ann HART wd 18 Nov 1873 ae 5 y 9 m 3 d

12. worn stone in HART plot, M.H. found on small piece of stone.

13. Richard ROGER wd Sept 28 1868 ae 62 yrs (name now illegible)

14. Mary Ann do John W & Mary Ann JORDAN d Nov 7 1862 ae 1 y 4 d (not found June 1990)

Large stone lying face down, reinforced with steel bars.

THE FOLLOWING STONES CAN NO LONGER BE LOCATED BUT WERE RECORDED in the 1930's for the Perkins Bull Collection. It was noted then that "most of the stones have been removed from Tormore cemeteries to Bolton".

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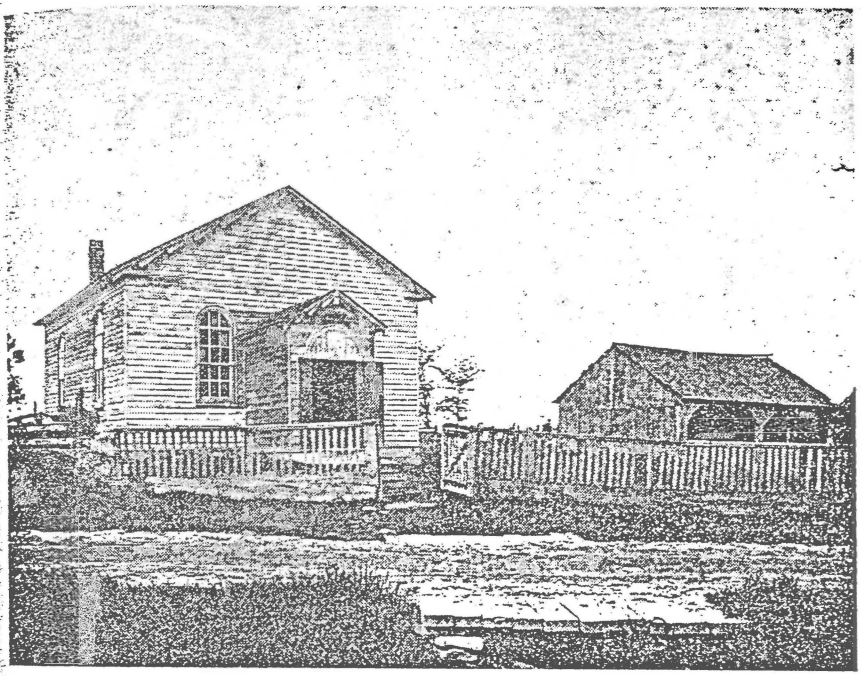
SHILOH PRIMITIVE METHODIST CEMETERY, TORMORE

15. Mary Ann, wo George EZARD d 28 Feb 1874 ae 50 yrs
ano Yorkshire, England
Thomas, sota, d Sept 1858 ae 4 y

16. George ROBINSON d 8 Aug 1876 ae 70 y

17. Ursula RICHARDSON d 28 Mar 1875 ae 73 yrs

18. ROGER Mary Annie (SCANDIMEN) d Apr 4 1865 ae 5
(see also #8).



SHILOH UNITED CHURCH, TORMORE

JUNE, 1990

SOURCES:

"FROM THIS YEAR HENCE" by George Tavender

The Perkins Bull Collection, Ontario Archives.

June 1990

From the desk of

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